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Mosquito control and West Nile virus – Reduce the bite

Reduce the chance of mosquito bites by:

- 1) **Reducing habitat**
- 2) **Preparing your home**
- 3) **Taking personal protection measures**

Tips to reduce mosquito habitat:

Removing sources of standing water on your property and around your home reduces places where mosquitoes can lay their eggs. Many mosquitoes only need a few ounces of water to lay and hatch eggs. Examples of things you can do include:

- Tip out barrels, buckets and wheelbarrows
- Tip out containers such as toys, cans or plant saucers
- Empty children's wading pools when not in use
- Change water in birdbaths and animal troughs at least once a week
- Get rid of used tires
- Clean garden ponds
- Recycle old bottles, buckets and cans
- Empty water from flower pot dishes
- Dump water off of tarps and plastic sheeting
- Cover rain barrels with mosquito screens
- Help your elderly or frail neighbors or relatives with these activities

Prepare your home

- Clean leaf-clogged gutters
- Repair leaky outdoor faucets
- Repair ripped windows and door screens and make sure they fit tight
- Consider adding a screen door to doors that often are left open

Take personal protection

We will never be able to eliminate all mosquitoes. Take personal protection to avoid being bitten. When mosquitoes are out – often at dawn and dusk:

- Wear long sleeve shirts and long pants. Hats are also useful.
- Consider using an insect repellent. Repellents containing the chemical N,N-diethyl-methyltoluamide (DEET) are known to be very effective. Some people are particularly sensitive to DEET and should use caution.
- Children under the age of two should not use insect repellents containing DEET. Older children should use products with the correct percentage of DEET for their age. It is important to read the label and follow the instructions on the label carefully. For more information on DEET, visit the CDC's insect repellent use and safety page:
http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/qa/insect_repellent.htm.

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